

I am thankful to Dr. B. K. Tikader and Dr. T. G. Vazirani for identification of spider and beetles respectively.

DESERT REGIONAL STATION,
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
JODHPUR,

P. D. GUPTA

February 22, 1973.

5. THE NILGIRI WOOD PIGEON, *COLUMBA ELPHINSTONII* (SYKES) ON SALSETTE ISLAND, BOMBAY

On 17th November 1973, we, along with Mr. Banshi Mehta, sat up in a forest covered valley in the Borivli National Park to see a leopard which was said to pass through the valley. As dusk fell several birds (mainly jungle crows) arrived to roost for the night on the trees in the valley. Among these, we were pleasantly surprised to see a Nilgiri Wood Pigeon *Columba elphinstonii* (Sykes) land on a tree close to where we were sitting. The large size, and 'chessboard' patch on the hind neck were very definitive. The bird spent the night on the tree and the identification was confirmed when it left early in the morning. The HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN 3 : 133 gives the northern range of the species as 'c. 19°N. lat. (a little beyond Bombay)'. A bird of higher elevation¹ it is rarely recorded below c. 600 m and the specimen seen was probably a bird in passage. The species is an addition to the birds of Bombay and Salsette Islands.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
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6. THE BROWNWINGED STORKBILLED KINGFISHER *PELARGOPSIS AMAUROPTERA* (PEARSON) IN ORISSA

While on a visit to the mangrove forests of the Chandbali coast of Orissa (c 20°47'N ; 86°55'E) we saw a large species of Kingfisher unfamiliar to us. A pair was collected and later identified at the Society as the Brownwinged Storkbilled Kingfisher. This remarkably handsome

¹ Found at Khandala, Matheran and common at Mahabaleshwar—Salim Ali.